

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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TO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,PO,US

SUBJECT: KENNEDY COMMENTS ON PORTUGAL

REFERENCE: LISBON 248

1. JANUARY 7 LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO KENNEDY (REFTEL), QUOTED BELOW IN ENTIRETY, RESPONDED TO DECEMBER LETTER SIGNED BY SENATORS HUMPHREY, BROOKE, PELL AND KENNEDY URGING STRONG AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR PORTUGAL AND BACKING US AND ALLIED ECONOMIC AID EFFORTS. REPLIES TO HUMPHREY, BROOKE AND PELL WERE SUBSTANTIALLY IDENTICAL AND DIFFERED ONLY IN FORM OF OPENING COURTESY PARAGRAPH. COPIES OF LETTERS AS WELL AS AN EARLIER DRAFT VERSION OF THEM HAVE BEEN POUCHEO.

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2. QUOTE: DEAR TED: I WAS DEEPLY GRATIFIED TO RECEIVE YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 3 OFFERING YOUR SUPPORT FOR U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR POLICY AIMED AT STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC FORCES THERE.

OVER THE PAST MONTHS WE HAVE HAD EXTENSIVE EXCHANGES WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN AND SCANDINAVIAN LEADERS ON THE SUBJECT OF PORTUGAL. THESE EXCHANGES HAVE INCLUDED COORDINATION OF OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE EFFORTS AS WELL AS COMPARISON OF OUR POLITICAL ESTIMATES. MOST RECENTLY AT THE

NATO MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS I AGAIN DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT WITH ALLIED EUROPEAN LEADERS AND I FOUND THEM TO BE AS ENCOURAGED AS WE ARE ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPEMTNS IN LISBON. I WAS GRATIFIED -- AND I AM SURE YOU WILL BE ALSO -- THAT THERE ARE REALISTIC PROSPECTS FOR STEPPED-UP ASSISTANCE EFFORTS ON THEIR PART.

IN THE PAST WEEK, I HAVE BEEN DISTRESSED TO LEARN THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IS CONSIDERING A REDUCTION OF \$20 MILLION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION'S ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR \$55 MILLION. OF THE AMOUNT REQUESTED, \$35 MILLION HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO GRANT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO RETURNEES FROM ANGOLA, AND CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT ON THE MODALITIES OF ITS DISTRIBUTION ARE UNDERWAY. THE REMAINING \$20 MILLION IS TO BE USED FOR DEVELOPMENT LOANS, THAT IS, FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS. I HOPE I MAY COUNT ON YOUR HELP IN RESTORING THIS AMOUNT IN THE FULL COMMITTEE'S REPORT. THE AMOUNT IS NOT GREAT, BUT THE IMPORTANCE IS.

OUR OWN INTERESTS ARE TO ASSIST PORTUGAL'S REINTEGRATION INTO WESTERN EUROPE, TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF PORTUGUESE LEADERS TO RESTORE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN LISBON AND TO BRING ABOUT ECONOMIC STABILITY. AS POLITICAL EVENTS IN LISBON CLARIFY OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, I HOPE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU SOME SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS ON HOW BEST TO PROCEED TOWARD THE FULFILLMENT OF THESE GOALS.

WARM REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER END QUOTE.

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3. KENNEDY STAFF AIDE (HUNTER) PROVIDED ACCOUNT OF JANUARY 10 MEETING BETWEEN KENNEDY, HUNTER AND MEMBERS OF NEW ENGLAND PORTUGUESE-AMERICAN COMMUNITY (PRIMARILY OF AZOREAN ORIGIN) AT WHICH LETTER AND LAJES BASE ISSUE WERE DISCUSSED. HUNTER SAID KENNEDY TOLD INTERLOCUTORS HE STRONGLY SUPPORTED US AID EFFORT AND THAT ADMINISTRATION WAS EQUALLY COMMITTED TO ASSISTING PORTUGAL. AS

DEMONSTRATION OF ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT HE DISPLAYED PERSONAL LETTER FROM SECRETARY AND ADDED HE WOULD, AS LETTER REQUESTS, PRESS FOR RESTORATION OF FULL \$55 MILLION IN FINAL SENATE VERSION OF AID BILL.

4. RE LAJES RENT, HUNTER SAID THAT IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, HE (HUNTER) NOTED THAT BASE NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN ABEYANCE AND IN HIS OPINION WERE UNLIKELY TO BE RESUMED UNTIL SOMETIME AFTER NEW GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE FOLLOWING ELECTIONS; THAT PRESS HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED VARIOUS QUID PRO QUO FIGURES (HUNTER NOT CERTAIN THAT \$450 MILLION

FIGURE MENTIONED); AND THAT FROM HIS VISITS TO LISBON HE HAD IMPRESSION GOP WAS PREPARED TO DIVERT PORTION OF QUID PAYMENT TO AZORES DEVELOPMENT. HUNTER SAID IT WAS CLEAR FROM CONTEXT OF HIS REPLY THAT HIS COMMENTS WERE PERSONAL OPINIONS BASED UPON INFO IN PUBLIC DOMAIN AND NOT CONFIDENTIAL DATA.

5. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON ABOVE ACCOUNT IN RESPONDING TO POSSIBLE PRESS INQUIRIES. KISSINGER

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